



**Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.**  
Governor

**Edwin G. Buss**  
Commissioner

**MIAMI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**  
3038 West 850 South • Bunker Hill, IN 46914  
Phone: (765) 689-8920 • Fax: (765) 689-7479

**Mark R. Sevier**  
Superintendent

## **MEDIA RELEASE:**

### **IDOC Staff and Offenders Receive U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Completing Job Skills Training**

Bunker Hill, IN (Dec. 3, 2009) – On Wednesday, both IDOC staff and offenders received recognition for their involvement in an innovative and extremely useful skills and training program. A total of 145 Miami Correctional Facility staff members and 138 offenders received certificates for completing the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) Apprenticeship Program.

The partnership between the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship and Indiana's Correctional Industries (PEN Products) was initiated in February 2006. It has been the launching pad for PEN Products' aggressive move into offender re-entry. The Indiana/PEN Products USDOL program, which has grown far beyond initial expectations, is the largest state prison program in the country today and the cornerstone of the mission to teach a work ethic and job skills to offenders. This collaboration also provides ex-offenders sound documentation to be used as a re-entry transition tool during their reintegration. Currently, 2,237 offenders and 447 IDOC staff members are enrolled in USDOL Apprenticeship programs.

MCF was praised by U.S. Department of Labor State Director John Delgado, a guest speaker at the program, and remarks were also sent, via video, from John Ladd, Administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship out of Washington D.C.

MCF staff members received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates Wednesday and at a separate ceremony the same day PEN Products offender workers were also presented their Apprenticeship Certificates. The offender workers are involved in several jobs within PEN Products including Braille Transcription, Chemical Operator, Administrative Assistant, Machine Operator, and Quality Assurance, among others.

Delgado reminded offenders at their ceremony that the certificate they receive is a significant tool that can be used to aid in getting jobs once they are released from prison. The program has merit and value to employers seeking to hire labor.

Doug Evans, PEN Operations Manager/Job Placement Manager, was instrumental in getting the program started within PEN. He told the offenders during his address that it starts with them. They had to take the initiative to be involved in the program and now it's up to them to do something with what they have received.

"We are extremely proud to have our staff members enroll and complete such a viable training and education program. The commitment to this training is providing the facility with skilled staff members and also giving the employee recognition and a viable work certificate," stated Superintendent Mark Sevier.

#### **STATE OF INDIANA**

Department of Correction • Indiana Government Center – South, Room E334 • 302 W. Washington St. • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2738  
Phone: (317) 232-5711 • Fax: (317) 232-6798 • Website: [www.in.gov/indcorrection/](http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/)

EOE

“PEN Products continues with its participation in the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program to prepare offenders with job skills for a successful re-entry. These offender will have a greater chance of finding employment after release,” said Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction

PEN Products is a division of the Indiana Department of Correction. PEN Products’ mission is to employ offenders within Indiana’s correctional facilities providing meaningful jobs, instilling a work ethic and providing marketable skills.

“We are proud to recognize graduates of the apprenticeship program. PEN Products is in the business of preparing offenders for their release by instilling a work ethic and providing offenders with marketable skills,” stated PEN Products Director, Mike Herron.

The growth and success of the USDOL Apprenticeship program in Indiana has catapulted PEN Products into new and innovative re-entry efforts that are expanding beyond the Correctional Industry shop into post release assistance, according to Evans. PEN Products is also the sponsoring agency for implementation of the NIC’s Offender Workforce Development team plan that will replicate the full Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training in Indiana.

-30-

## **FAQ’s**

### **What is Registered Apprenticeship?**

Registered Apprenticeship programs meet the skilled workforce needs of American industry, training millions of qualified individuals for lifelong careers since 1937. Registered Apprenticeship helps mobilize America's workforce with structured, on-the-job learning in traditional industries such as construction and manufacturing, as well as new emerging industries such as health care, information technology, energy, telecommunications and more. Registered Apprenticeship connects job seekers looking to learn new skills with employers looking for qualified workers, resulting in a workforce with industry-driven training and employers with a competitive edge.

### **How does Registered Apprenticeship benefit employers?**

In addition to available tax benefits and workforce development grants in some states, Registered Apprenticeship benefits employers by providing them with a pipeline of skilled workers with industry-specific training and hands-on experience. Registered Apprenticeship programs are customizable to match employers' needs, and highly flexible to always to meet employers' changing requirements.

### **Who operates Registered Apprenticeship programs?**

Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors (employers, employer associations and labor management organizations) vary from small, privately owned businesses to national employer and industry associations. Today, we have nearly 29,000 sponsors representing more than 250,000 employers, including UPS, the United States Military Apprenticeship Program, Werner Enterprises, CVS/pharmacy and many others.

### **How does Registered Apprenticeship benefit individuals?**

From day one, apprentices receive a paycheck that is guaranteed to increase as their training progresses. Apprentices also complete a combination of industry-specific classroom education and hands-on career training leading to nationally recognized certifications.

For more information about the Registered Apprenticeship Program go to  
[http://www.doleta.gov/oa/eta\\_default.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/oa/eta_default.cfm)

**Media Contact:**

Ann Hubbard, Public Information Officer, Miami Correctional Facility, 1-765-689-8920 x 5536  
Becky Deeb, PEN Products, 1-800-736-2550 x 220